

Goroka Bilum Weavers Cooperative

Artist Statement and Biography

Artist Statement

Madang is one of the 19 Provinces situated in the Coastal area of Papua New Guinea. “Kalibobo” is a portion located along the coastline of Madang Province surrounded by Big Reefs. The Germans arrived in the area in 1844 and build the lighthouse known as the Coast Watchers Memorial Lighthouse. The Local People call it the “Kalibobo Lighthouse”.

Women from the Highlands, especially Goroka are popular subsistence farmers and are more often found selling their vegetables in the Coastal areas. One of the main markets they go to is the Madang market. Madang is very hot with its climate and the market “Mamas” go to the Lighthouse for fresh air and the sea view, especially in the afternoons, whilst their stay there.

The “Kalibobo Lighthouse” Bilum Design was created in the year 2010 when a bilum weaver from Goroka decided to design a bilum similar to the lighthouse. Her whole idea was to create a design signifying the Iconic Kalibobo Lighthouse where “Market Mamas” from the Highlands Spend time for fresh cold wind blowing from the sea and to see the mystical light of the Lighthouse hovering into the sea with the afternoon sunset.

Happy Talk in Sydney commissioned us to weave a 10m x 3m Canvas out of Bilum. I selected 10 bilum weavers, 10 on standby and 40 Twine Twisters totalling to 60 women to weave 3m x 1m per woman weaver in 6wks.

The design was woven with Creativity and history reflecting lifestyle of women taking the risk to travelling the Highlands Highway transporting their cash crops everyday in PMV tricks. Unlike other designs that are created and forgotten, this design is one of the top designs and rated number one with Sunset colors with Black Foundation signifying “Black women” striving for their survival”

Artist Biography

Goroka Bilum Weavers Cooperative
Team Artist: Florence Jaukae (Kamel)
Pacific Islands

Education

1986 - 1989 Grade Ten (I 0) Certificate
 Goroka Demonstration High School

1980 - 1985 Grade Six (6) Certificate
 Faniufa Sacred Heart Primary School

Motivation

I have been an outspoken representative and leader on issues in my community, District and Province. My election as a Local Level Government Councilor in 2002 was an achievement for women in general and specifically for me in that is one of the things I have been advocating as a women's leader in a male dominated arena. In fact I was one of the few duly elected women. I wanted to aid and assist mothers and women in general to earn an income for themselves. Reduce Poverty. Empower Women. Gender Equity. Stop Violence Against Women

Achievements

Self help project for women from the Goroka and the Eastern Highlands Province Our efforts at exposure and marketing had been boosted by the fact that we have displayed our wares at the 2005 and 2006 Red Cross Miss PNG pageant

2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games, Walkout Outfit for the Team Papua New Guinea Representations at various entrepreneurial workshops and exhibitions both locally and internationally.

Registered as a commercial entity with the IP A under Jaukae Bilum Products.
Four (4) items acquired by the Australia National Museum, Sydney, Australia
Two (2) items acquired by the Gallery of Modern Art (GOMA) Brisbane, Australia
Host and Founder of the Goroka Bilum Festival